A detailed safeguard mechanism is in place under Article 16 of Agreement on SAFTA in case of surge in imports on preferential treatment from SAARC countries. Besides, export in textiles (similar to any other sector) under SAFTA will be subject to fulfilment of criteria defined in the Rules of Origin under Article 18 of Agreement on SAFTA.

Steps to promote textile industry

1098. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total cloth consumption in the country annually during the last three years;

(b) the factors that determine cloth consumption; and

(c) the steps taken to promote the textile industry, particularly the handloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) According to the National Household Survey conducted by Textile Committee the All India per capita consumption of textiles during 2001 to 2003 (latest available) was as given below:—

Year	Per capita consumption/purchase of textiles	
	Quantity in Mtrs.	Value in Rupees
2001	18.65	1092.92
2002	19.00	1150.26
2003	19.71	1211.33

Source: Compendium of Statistics, O/o Textile Commissioner.

(b) The cloth consumption in the country is mainly influenced by factors like income levels, price, area (rural/urban), gender based preferences etc.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to promote the domestic textile industry including handlooms. A number of plan schemes and programmes are being implemented for promotion of handlooms with the objective of product diversification, Marketing support and technological upgradation like the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Integrated Handloom Training Programme, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme and Handloom Export Scheme.